

## Special Deliveries from the Director

# Commissioner Ena Weathers Recognized

Congratulations to Ena Weathers (center), a hearing commissioner with the Liquor Control Commission, who was presented with a Special Delivery from the Director for her work with the Michigan Coalition to Reduce Underage Drinking (MCRUD). She was named a "MCRUD Hero" at the organization's eighth birthday celebration in July. "Commissioner Weathers has been a valuable asset to not only the statewide Steering Committee, but to many of the local organizations who send representatives to the meetings. As a commissioner, she has answered questions regarding legal issues pertinent to the many alcohol licensees across the state," said a MCRUD spokesperson. Joining in the special delivery from DLEG Director David C. Hollister was Liquor Control Commission Chair Nida Samona (left), who made the nomination.



# Sean Douglas Praised for Hard Work

An individual wishing to remain anonymous nominated Sean Douglas in Finance and Administrative Services for a Special Delivery from the Director. "Sean works very hard to maintain the phone system and orders for our department. When the Unemployment Insurance Agency came in, he handled setting up the 800

line to make sure the citizens had information on getting their unemployment. This was done on very short notice. Even though that was some time ago, he should still be recognized. He is always there to help anyone that has a question," read the nomination form. Congratulations, Sean!



# Stacie Bayes Lauded for Management Skills

Stacie Bayes in Finance and Administrative Services was nominated for a Special Delivery from the Director by Mary Hines, accounting manager. Mary wrote: "Stacie has supervised the DLEG cashiering staff for the past four years. She has demonstrated superb management skills and communicates in an efficient and professional manner with management, bureaus and subordinates. Stacie is always focused on the needs of her customers and as a result, this attitude is reflected in the performance of the 12 cashiering operators that report directly to her. The Unit

processes over 5,600 transactions per day on an average and deposits 269 million dollars per year. As a result of her excellent supervisory and communication skills, Treasury deposits are timely and accurate. She is well respected within DLEG because of her integrity, outstanding work ethics and excellent customer rapport. Stacie is definitely an asset to the department and has made my job as her manager relatively easy. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize her performance." Congratulations, Stacie!



# Finance and Administrative Services Employees Thanked for Massive Moving Task



Accepting a Special Delivery from the Director for Finance and Administrative Services employee Judith Chapman, who was not available for a photo, is Don Mueller (left). Bob Lowe (center) received his delivery from Al Pohl (right).

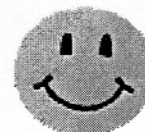
Eight employees in Finance and Administrative Services (FAS) were presented with Special Deliveries from the Director following their nomination by FAS Director Al Pohl. Al wrote: "I worked together with a group of eight other people over the past couple of months to deliver over 200 five-drawer lateral file cabinets and shelving units to the Office of Financial and Insurance Services on the third floor of the Ottawa Building and various groups on the fourth floor from the Unemployment Insurance Agency branch offices that are closing. The cost of a new cabinet is over \$500 each, so they have saved over \$100,000 so far and will continue to work together to move equipment that can result in saving money for DLEG. Thanks for a job well done!"



Shown accepting their Special Deliveries are Finance and Administrative Services employees, l. to r., David Synk, William Eggers Jr., Dennis Knight, Michael Williams, and Gerard Buchalski. David Thomas (far right) made the presentation to these five staff, and was also one of the eight recipients.

## "Special Delivery from the Director"

I would like to nominate the following staff member to receive a  
"Great Job" acknowledgement from Director Hollister



Name of Nominee	Submitted By
Office/Bureau	Classification
Telephone	Office Location

The reason I am nominating this person:

Bureau/Office Director	Date

Bureau/Office Director: Please sign and return to DLEG Media & Public Relations,  
Ottawa Bldg., 4th Floor, Lansing 48909 - Fax: 517-241-1580



# First Intergovernmental Agreement Signed Under Land Bank Fast Track Act

An intergovernmental agreement between the newly created Michigan Land Bank Fast Track Authority and the Genesee County treasurer was signed July 7, 2004, to create the Genesee County Land Bank Authority. This is the first such intergovernmental agreement under the Land Bank Fast Track Act, which was signed into law by Governor Jennifer Granholm in January 2004. It is a model for such future local agreements.

The act is seen as the most progressive legislation of its kind in the nation.

The act created the Land Bank Fast Track Authority to

deal with the state's inventory of tax-reverted property. The act also allows for the creation of land bank authorities at the county and local levels.

By signing the agreement, Genesee County becomes the first local governmental unit to partner with the Land Bank Fast Track Authority and take advantage of the many powers granted under the new legislation. A pioneer in operating a land bank, Genesee County plans to use the additional powers granted it to strengthen its program and to aggressively and more efficiently maintain, manage and develop property it holds in the city of Flint and throughout Genesee County.



Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) Acting Executive Director Rick L. Laber (left) and Genesee County Treasurer Daniel T. Kildee sign the intergovernmental agreement creating the Genesee County Land Bank Authority.



## Blood Drives Give Boost to Red Cross

An Unemployment Insurance Agency (UIA) blood drive at Cadillac Place in Detroit July 6 collected 31 pints of blood for the American Red Cross.

"Considering that we were coming off the 4th of July holiday and that blood supplies are critically low, we are pleased with the results," said Val Congdon, a UIA analyst in the agency's Tax Office, who coordinated the drive.

The blood drive drew donors from UIA and from other state agencies in the building as well as from Trizec Hahn, which manages Cadillac Place. The UIA and Red Cross sponsor two blood drives a year at the building.

Another blood drive, held June 25 in the Ottawa Building in Lansing, collected 88 pints of blood from Department of Labor & Economic Growth employees and others for the American Red Cross.

Lori Parr, the Department of Treasury employee who coordinated the blood drive, said another drive will be held at the Ottawa Building on August 20. Please contact Lori at (517) 373-3489 to schedule a time.



## What's in a Name? Ask Jeannine Benedict

Jeannine Benedict with Commercial Services is \$50 richer for naming DLEG's new employee newsletter *Michigan LEGwork*. The DLEG Fun Committee had offered a crisp new bill with President Grant's picture on it to the employee submitting the winning name.

Above, Bob Johnson, senior executive assistant director of DLEG, presents the \$50 bill to Jeannine.



## 'Jeans for a Good Cause' Helps Many

Week after week, the Office of Financial and Insurance Services (OFIS) helps local charities through its Jeans for a Good Cause program. In exchange for the privilege of being allowed to wear jeans on Friday, many OFIS employees donate money or bring in needed items for designated recipients. Many other OFIS staffers who do not wear jeans also participate in the program. Some recent beneficiaries include:

**The Chad Christie family**—More than \$600 was raised to help the family of Chad Christie, Credit Union Division, OFIS, cope with the various expenses related to the medical treatment and care of their five-year-old daughter, Alissa.

**CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of Ingham County**—This organization is committed to providing a voice for abused and neglected children in the family court system. OFIS employ-

ees donated books, coloring books, crayons, toys, stuffed animals and other items.

**Haven House**—Many Lansing-area families who are homeless turn to Haven House for help. The organization provides a temporary home and helps families find new housing and, if needed, jobs and other assistance. OFIS staffers contributed a variety of cleaning, household and personal care items.

**Coats for Kids, Inc.**—Winter coats, hats, mittens and blankets were collected.

Other charities benefiting this year from the Jeans for a Good Cause program include the Capital Area Humane Society, Eve's House, Beekman Therapeutic Riding Stable, Greater Lansing Food Bank/Movers, Ele's Place, 5K for JA, Habitat for Humanity, and ACS Relay for Life.

## UIA Holds Advocacy Program Seminar, Exam in Upper Peninsula

In May, the Unemployment Insurance Agency (UIA) held an Advocacy program seminar and examination in Marquette for those interested in joining the program as advocates. Twenty-six people attended the one-day seminar, and 31 took the exam. Attendance at the seminar was not required to take the exam.

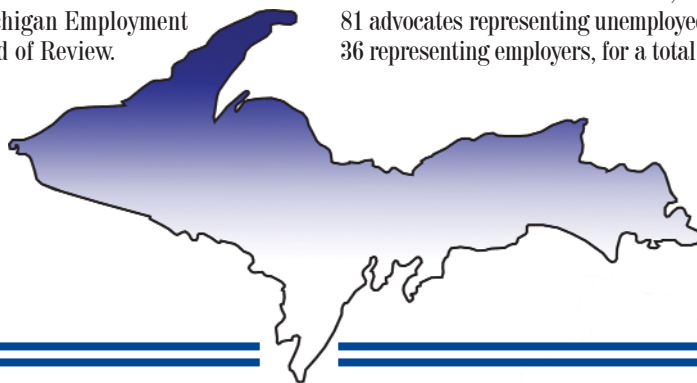
Of the exam-takers, 55 percent, or 17, passed. Sixteen signed contracts to become advocates, while one person chose not to join the program at this time. Those who joined the program then attended a one-day orientation about the program and appeals process.

Advocates offer consultation, information and representation services to unemployed workers and employers who appeal decisions about either unemployment claims or taxes to administrative law judges or the Michigan Employment Security (MES) Board of Review.

Several UIA staff were involved with the seminar, exam and orientation. Neil Zechman, chief, Administrative Law and Rules Section, conducted the seminar part of the program, while Maureen Michalski, Advocacy manager, and Billie Banks, Advocacy analyst, conducted the orientation and assisted with the exam. Also helping with the exam was Darla Harper, manager of the Lansing Problem Resolution Office.

Other participants in the orientation were George Matish, chief, Office of Appeals; Larry Hollens, an administrative law judge; and Kathy Markman, chair, MES Board of Review.

The new advocates come from around the state — two are from the Upper Peninsula while others are from the Grand Rapids, Grand Traverse, Lansing and Detroit areas. Before the exam, the program had 81 advocates representing unemployed workers and 36 representing employers, for a total of 117.





# People on the Move

A number of new managers and lead workers have been named in recent months at the Unemployment Insurance Agency's Remote Initial Claims (RIC) Center in Detroit. Please see their names with the accompanying photos below.

The Office of Workforce Development welcomes **Nathan-iel Oliver** to the Welfare Reform Section as new state coordinator. Nate was previously with the Unemployment Insurance Agency's Remote Initial Claims (RIC) Center in Grand Rapids.

Congratulations to **Joe Barela** with the Consultation Education & Training Division, Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA), who has been reallocated from safety officer to senior safety officer. Joe has worked for MIOSHA for the past 18 years.

Governor **Jennifer Granholm** has reappointed **Mary E. (Libby) Child** of Grand Rapids to the Funds Administration

Board of Trustees within the Workers' Compensation Agency. She represents employers who are authorized to act as self-insurers. Her new appointment runs through April 30, 2008.

**Mark Kaufman**, Ypsilanti, has been appointed to the Michigan Employment Security Board of Review. He started July 12 and works in Lansing. In addition, **Neal Young**, Grand Rapids, was reappointed. The terms for both appointments expire December 31, 2007.

**Murray Gorchow**, West Bloomfield, has been named a worker's compensation magistrate. His appointment became effective June 14 and expires January 26, 2007. He is based in Detroit.



Bettie Shaw-Henderson

Congratulations to **Bettie Shaw-Henderson**, who has been appointed deputy director of Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS). Bettie "has over 24 years of experience with MRS, ranging from counselor to division director," said MRS State Director **Jaye N. Balthazar**. "She has managed three districts in MRS and has been very active and effective in national, state and local professional organizations. She is well known and highly regarded by many partners and has earned many awards and recognitions for extensive work in the field of rehabilitation."



## New Managers and Lead Workers Named at UIA's Detroit RIC Center



New lead workers at the Detroit RICC are, seated l. to r., Linda Jones, Maria Redner and Melanie Harrison-Holman; standing l. to r., Kathy Flagstadt, Tim Johnson, Joann Smith, Annie Pullins and Rochelle Washington. Not pictured is Maxine Evans.



New managers at the Detroit RICC are, seated l. to r., Faith Baval and Janice Harlin; standing l. to r., David Graves, Jacqueline Spencer and Gerald Brown. Not pictured is Kenetra Bender.

# Professional Activities & Community Service

Office of Financial and Insurance Services (OFIS) Deputy Commissioner **Roger W. Little**, who is also the chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Association of State Credit Union Supervisors (NASCUS), testified in June before the U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs on the subject of pending regulatory relief. The purpose of the hearing was to

provide committee members with a comprehensive overview of the current proposals for legislation on financial services reform. Speaking on behalf of NASCUS, Roger told the committee that proposed amendments to the Federal Credit Union Act “will provide regulatory relief for credit unions, both federal and state, and enhance the value of the credit union charter.”

**Mikjell Shaw**, with the Technical Support Unit of the Enforcement Division, Commercial Services, was recently honored for her academic accomplishments. In a letter sent by the chairman of National Academic Affairs, Mikjell was notified that she has been selected to be a member of the National Dean’s List. Some

2,500 colleges and universities name honorees who have been personally selected by their deans, faculty members, or other educational organizations. Mikjell is working toward a bachelor’s degree in PC and LAN management at Davenport University, planning to graduate in May 2005. Congratulations, Mikjell!

**April Saldivar**, Construction Safety & Health Division, Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA), has graduated

with a bachelor’s degree in marketing from Baker College. Congratulations, April!

**Barry Simmonds**, Consultation Education & Training Division (CET), MIOSHA, was recently called into an Upper Peninsula firm where safety officer **Joe LeBlanc** of MIOSHA’s General Industry Safety & Health Division had earlier conducted an accident investigation. Before Joe left the premises, he recommended the services of the CET Division. Barry reports that the employer told him he was skeptical about the

services provided by CET, but was pleased to find the services are free. The employer stated that the firm was especially impressed with Joe’s professionalism and the fact he would take the time to inform the firm about CET’s free services. Barry indicates this is a prime example of how the two divisions working together have created a positive experience with an employer, and Joe was the catalyst for it.

**Wayne Weigel**, veterans employment specialist with the Employment Service Agency, Customer Service Division, Region III, has been assigned under an Intergovernmental Personnel Mobility Agreement (IPA) to work for a year with the U.S. Department of Labor, Veterans’ Employment and Training Service. An IPA is an agreement among states and different agencies of the federal government that allows state governments to detail state employees to federal agencies so they can learn how the federal government manages certain programs. Wayne will be in Washington, D.C., until May 23, 2005, working with the Transition Assistance Program, which prepares returning military personnel for transition into civilian employment, and the Homeless Veterans’ Reintegration Project.



# We Get Letters ... and E-Mails!

*We are pleased each month to publish complimentary letters, notes, cards, phone calls and e-mail messages sent to DLEG employees from external agencies and organizations and the general public. Send, fax or e-mail them to Lynne Breen, DLEG Media & Public Relations, P.O. Box 30004, Lansing, MI 48909; (517) 241-1580 (fax); [breenl@michigan.gov](mailto:breenl@michigan.gov).*

**Barb Maki**, Testing and Education Services Unit, Commercial Services, received a handwritten note of thanks from an examination candi-

date, who wrote: "Thank you, thank you, thank you! I don't know if I would have kept trying without your encouragement. Thank you for your kind listening ear and your time!"

**Gloria Keene**, licensing administrator for the Builders and Design Board's Licensing Unit, Commercial Services, received a complimentary letter for her help in expediting a re-licensure

application for a residential builder. Gloria also received a note thanking her for "getting to the bottom" of a license application matter that she helped to resolve.

**Shannon Bush**, Enforcement Division, and **Sue Hensley**, Licensing Division, Commercial Services, were personally thanked by a cosmetology school owner who recently obtained a license

for her second school. She came into the office to express her thanks, telling them how much she appreciated their assistance in helping her get the new location opened so quickly.

**Sheena Delgado**, student assistant, Builder's Unit, Commercial Services, was commended for her assistance to a builder who asked how to renew his license. When he had difficulty understanding the process, she typed a note with detailed instructions and sent it along with a pre-

addressed mailing label to use in mailing back the application. When he called later to find out the status of his application, he was very pleased to learn it was already renewed. "You just made the rest of my life better," he exclaimed. "You really made my day!"

**Steve Gillotte**, a vocational counselor with the Employment Service Agency (ESA), Customer Service Division, Region IV, who works at the Michigan Works! Service Center in Marquette, received this e-mail message: "Thank you, my friend, for

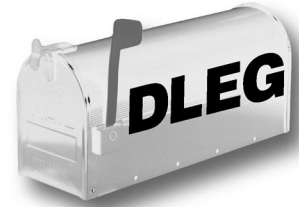
such great service. Your speedy response equals that of caring for a family member in need. The good feeling I get thinking about what you've said and the personal letters of reference exceeds the boost from the interview opportunity, and continues to last."

**Ron Fairnot**, a veterans employment specialist with ESA, Customer Service Division, Region II, who works at the Michigan Works! Service Centers in Lansing and St. Johns, received this letter: "I met you last Thursday after I attended the testing session at the Michigan Works office. I wanted to thank you again for seeing me and all the suggestions you gave to me. Your help was much appreciated and very helpful, if for no other reason than to know that you and your organiza-

tion care about people like me who are out of work ... I have accepted a position and I should start later this week in Roseville. It will be a long drive to work and a change in my lifestyle as I am taking a large cut in pay from my last job, but it is work and I will be off unemployment. This in itself is very important to me. I am to be self-sufficient again and no longer a burden to this great state we live in. Thanks again and keep up the great job you are doing for vets like me."

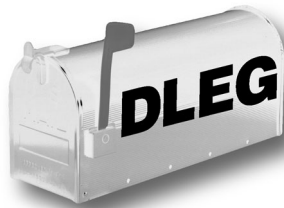
**Conrad Herring**, a veterans employment specialist with ESA, Customer Service Division, Region II, who works at the Michigan Works! Service Center in Mt. Clemens, received this e-mail message: "I came in and spoke with you about three months ago

about my job opportunities, I wanted to let you know that I am now fully employed and in my particular discipline. Thank you so much for spending the time to assist me with everything. I will remember to use your resources in the future should the need arise."





## [More] Letters ... and E-Mails!



**Jim Stanuszek**, a veterans employment specialist with ESA, Customer Service Division, Region IV, is praised in this letter to **Judy Ezop**, Region IV manager: "I recently relocated to Luzerne, Michigan, due to losing my job in Tulsa, Oklahoma. At my first visit to Michigan Works! in Mio, Michigan, I was asked to come back the following day to see James Stanuszek for veterans' assistance in finding a job. What I expected to encounter was a feel good speech about how veterans have not been forgotten and we will do our best, etc. What I encountered was a professional

who was genuinely concerned about my unemployment and promised to help me find a job. To prove he was sincere, I do have a job thanks to Mr. Stanuszek taking the time to make phone calls and do the foot work to let the right people know I was job hunting in the area. Because of his efforts, I will begin working before receiving my first unemployment check! Once again, I cannot say how appreciative I am for all the help Mr. Stanuszek provided. Because of his efforts, I can honestly tell others that being a veteran has its advantages."

**Phyllis Mellon** with the Department of Management and Budget sent the following e-mail message to Deputy Director **Bob Swanson** regarding **Shannon Ramsay** in Internal Audit: "I had commented to you about one of your employees, Shannon Ramsay, who had the misfortune with the falling concrete in the Ottawa parking ramp. Our staff have mentioned several times how wonderful she was to deal with throughout — that in

spite of having her new car damaged, she was always very positive and professional with the DMB staff who worked with her. It is particularly gratifying to DMB when ... the customer is so reasonable and pleasant to work with. I think this is a fine illustration of the value of 'team-work,' and everyone here certainly appreciates her attitude. If you have the chance to recognize her for that, it would be great. Thanks!"

The Michigan Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (MAHSA) thanked **Suellen Cook**, Consultation Education & Training (CET) Division, Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA), for a recent presentation: "This letter comes with the highest of compliments, thanks and appreciation for the remarkable presentation that you gave in conjunction with MAHSA's 36th Annual Conference

in Grand Rapids. This was our biggest and best state conference ever! The success of the conference is dependent upon experts like you. Setting high quality standards and educating your fellow colleagues on the best methods to achieve them is one of the biggest benefits of MAHSA and is essential to the success of our field. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to this mission."

**Patty Meyer**, supervisor of the Construction Safety & Health Division, MIOSHA, took a phone call from an employer who wanted to convey that it was a pleasure to work with **Richard Kawucha**

during an inspection he conducted. The employer stated that Richard was very helpful and invited MIOSHA staff to visit him at the Lebanese restaurant he owns in Dearborn.

**Rich Sumner**, CET Division, MIOSHA, received a memo from **Mark Jones** with Safety and Security at Ford Motor Company. Mr. Jones wrote, "Rich did a GREAT job presenting at our

meeting last week with our UAW health and safety reps and safety engineers. His topic and delivery were perfect for the audience. My thanks to Rich for supporting us!"

**Linda Williams**, a counselor at the Detroit Grand River office of Michigan Rehabilitation Services, received this letter: "I really appreciate all the support and help that you have given to me ... for all the encouragement, like, 'You can do it.' When I first started at Wayne County Community College in August of 2000, it was really hard for me, having quit school 25 years

back. Sometimes when you and I had our meetings, you would say things to me that made me feel that this lady really has faith in me. Well, this is it! I will graduate this spring. I have a grade point average of 3.50. Also, I am a member of Phi Theta Kappa Society. Linda, thank you for all your help. Oh, I'll hand deliver your invitation personally."



# Marty Alexander Is Certified in Homeland Security at Highest Level

Martin (Marty) D. Alexander, who wrote the article below, is a district supervisor at the Lansing District Office of the Michigan Liquor Control Commission Enforcement Division. A member of the American College of Forensic Examiners International (ACFEI), Marty recently became certified in Homeland Security at the highest level (III) by the ACFEI following a thorough evaluation of his knowledge, skill, education and advanced training.

Marty first learned of the ACFEI and the Certification in Homeland Security Program while attending the First International Anti-Terrorism Conference in Colorado this past March. Marty said it seemed natural to apply for the certification with his background and current position.

He has a bachelor of science degree in criminal justice and a master of science degree in security administration. He spent 10 years in the U.S. Army, including two years in Vietnam and four years in Germany. In his current job, identity and financial documents are routinely examined for evidence of fraudulent activity and money laundering.

The Certification in Homeland Security Program encompasses professionals such as members of the military, law enforcement officers and security experts, who are able to work side by side before, during and after a terrorist attack or other crisis situation.



## Am I Ready, or What?

By Martin D. Alexander

We live in turbulent times, don't we? Thinking of our recent experiences, we've had electrical outages, snow and ice storms, tornadoes and the residual affects of terrorist activities. Somehow we get through them. Some fare better than others because they were prepared, while others were not. Past events often predict future occurrences. We learn how to become better prepared.

How did the last disaster affect you and your family? What could you have done proactively to lessen the burden? Were you prepared?

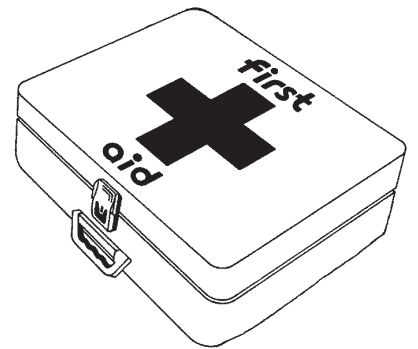
We receive warnings from many sources, such as the meteorologist who warns of severe weather and recommends we take cover; police who warn us of criminal activity and recommend we be on the lookout; firefighters who warn us of fire threats and recommend we take precautions; Homeland Security who warn us of threats to our local, state and national safety and recommend that we be ready. Almost on a daily basis, we learn of current warnings and advisories through TV, radio, and/or the written media. We hear it so often that many of us tune it out.

Right now, it seems, our most serious threat is from terrorists. They threaten to harm us at any place, any time, in any manner. The government and most experts believe it's not a matter of if, but when, how and where. We have been receiving ample warning and preparation time to get ready. Are you ready?

The Michigan State Police Emergency Management Division has prepared a superb guide, located at <http://www.michigan.gov/homeland>. Contained therein is A Family Preparedness Guide that is easy to understand and apply to your situation. This guide helps with learning what to do before, during and after an emergency; creating an emergency family plan; preparing an emergency supply kit; and becoming familiar with an agency contact list. It also emphasizes that knowing what to do is your responsibility and your best protection.

Another excellent source is from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, located at <http://www.ready.gov/>. This document provides a checklist for putting together a kit, making a plan and being informed. Suggested items include, but are not limited to, a rotating supply of water and food for you, your children and pets; a first aid kit; a radio, flashlight and batteries; fuel; and medication to last three to five days. Anticipate the unexpected and prepare. Don't forget seasonal items such as blankets and an alternate and reliable source of heat for the winter.

These and other sources recommend that you have a "ready-to-go" kit for your home, vehicle and work. Make these kits work for you and do it today. You can be ready. If everything stops for two or three days, you can survive without external help if you prepare. Imagine the worst-case



(Continued on next page)

## Am I Ready, or What? (continued)

scenario and make plans. Inventories may get low, so don't rely on getting to the pharmacy to get your medication refilled, to the store for groceries, or to the gas station for fuel. Your cell phone might not work temporarily. The electricity could be out for a few days. You could be on your own.

Plan and act proactively. Do it today. Don't forget about your neighbors, especially those who are elderly or have disabilities. When something happens, you want to be the person who can ask: Am I ready, or what?



Pictured l. to r. are Richard Gross, director of Personnel Relations & Equal Employment Planning, Ford Motor Company; Kimberly; Timothy; and Richard Kryza, ESA veterans employment specialist, Region II, Saginaw, who is serving as the economic chair of the American Legion, Department of Michigan.

## ESA Veterans Workers Honored at American Legion Convention

Two Employment Service Agency (ESA) employees who work on behalf of veterans were honored at the American Legion, Department of Michigan, annual convention held June 19 in Dearborn.

Kimberly Harvey, ESA Customer Service Division, Region II, Flint, was named Disabled Veterans Outreach Worker of the Year, and Timothy Burke, with Region II, Mt. Clemens, was selected Veterans Employment Specialist of the Year. Congratulations to you both!



## Awards Banquet Celebrates Achievements of Business Owners with Disabilities

The Third Annual Small Business Awards Banquet will be held Friday, September 3, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Lansing Sheraton Hotel.

Sponsored by Michigan Rehabilitation Services and the Michigan Commission for the Blind, the event celebrates the achievements of small-business owners with disabilities and the services provided by human service professionals who support their endeavors. SHANTI Inc. (Self-Help and National Training Institute) is a community partner for the event.

This year's keynote speaker will be Randy Graise, a motivational speaker and small-business owner.

Awards will include the Small Business Internal Resource Award, Small Business External Resource Award, Small Business of the Year, Small Business Champion of the Year, Lifetime Achievement Award, two Small Business awards given by the Commission, and a special Director's Award given by the MRS state director.

Please contact James Bunton at (517) 373-8297 if you have questions or are interested in attending.



Randy Graise